

CLAIMS

WE CLAIM:

1. A method for alleviating an antibody-mediated inflammatory autoimmune disorder in
a mammal comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of a
5 compound selected from the group consisting of:

an IL-16 activity inhibitor,
a RANTES activity inhibitor,
and combinations thereof.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the compound is an IL-16 activity inhibitor.

10 3. The method of claim 1 wherein the compound is a RANTES activity inhibitor.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the compound is a combination of an IL-16 activity
inhibitor and a RANTES activity inhibitor.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting
of

15 rapamycin,
wortmannin,
PD098059, SB203580 and
combinations thereof.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the compound is rapamycin.

20 7. The method of claim 1 wherein the compound is PD098059.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the compound is a combination of rapamycin, PD098059, SB203580, or combination thereof.
9. The method of claim 1 wherein the antibody-mediated inflammatory autoimmune disorder is selected from the group consisting of:

5 Graves' disease, thyroid ophthalmopathy,
vitiligo,
leukemia,
rheumatoid arthritis,
lymphoma,
10 lupus,
pemphigus,
adrenal failure,
polyglandular failure,
Type I diabetes.

- 15 10. The method of claim 1 wherein the antibody-mediated inflammatory autoimmune disorder is Thyroid-Associated Ophthalmopathy.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein the mammal is a human.

12. The method of claim 1 wherein the compound is administered orally, enterically, intravenously, peritoneally, subcutaneously, transdermally, parenterally, or rectally.

- 20 13. A method of detecting antibody-activated fibroblasts in a patient comprising
obtaining a biological sample from the patient and

measuring the level of an analyte chosen from the group consisting of

IL-16,

RANTES,

and combinations thereof

5 wherein an elevated level of the analyte indicates antibody-activated fibroblasts in the patient.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the level of analyte is measured by Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA).

15. The method of claim 13 wherein the analyte is IL-16.

10 16. The method of claim 13 wherein the analyte is RANTES.

17. The method of claim 13 wherein the analyte is a combination of IL-16 and RANTES.

18. The method of claim 13 wherein the patient is human.

19. The method of claim 13 wherein the biological sample is selected from a group consisting of:

15 blood,

urine,

synovial fluid,

ascites,

tissue.